

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 IOE-00 L-01 SP-02 NSC-05

NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 RSC-01 OIC-01 EB-03 INRE-00

ARA-06 AF-04 EA-06 NEA-06 SSO-00 PRS-01 /067 W

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O 201130Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9085H

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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LIMDIS

FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: WFC, UN, FAO, IBRD

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE FOLLOW UP: DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN
UNSYG AND FAO DIRECTOR GENERAL ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR
WORLD FOOD COUNCIL SESSION, INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND CONSULTATIONS ON FOOD
INVESTMENT AND PRODUCTION

REF: (A) ROME 0756; (B) ROME 0411 (BEING REPEATED TO USUN)

SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL BOERMA'S BRIEFING JAN 17
OF COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES TO FAO, UN SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM
DISCUSSED WITH HIM, MCNAMARA OF IBRD, PRABISCH OF UNEO, AND OTHERS ON
JAN 9-10 IN NEW YORK WIDE RANGE OF FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS TO WORLD
FOOD COUNCIL WHICH ARE OF INTEREST TO US GOVERNMENT. REF (A) HAS
REPORTED BOERMA'S BRIEFING ON MOST CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE OF SECRETARIAT
ARRANGEMENTS FOR WORLD FOOD COUNCIL. AGENDA ITEM ON RECONSTITUTION OF
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE OF WORLD FOOD PROGRAM WAS DEFERRED PANDIN
G

TALKS OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WORLD FOOD PROGRAM AQUINO WITH
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UNSYG ON JAN 16. (WE HAVE REPORTED IN REF (B) SEPARATE TELEGRAM

OUTLINE OF PROPOSAL AQUINO INTENDED TO RAISE.) THIS TELEGRAM SUMMARIZED BOERMA'S BRIEFING ON OTHER AGENDA ITEMS: (A) ARRANGEMENTS FOR WORLD FOOD COUNCIL SESSION, (B) INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND (C) CONSULTATIONS ON FOOD INVESTMENT AND PRODUCTION.

1. ARRANGEMENTS FOR WORLD FOOD COUNCIL SESSION. AGENDA OF FIRST WORLD FOOD COUNCIL SESSION, DISCUSSED IN ONLY GENERAL TERMS, SHOULD CONSIST OF (A) GENERAL FOLLOW-UP TO WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE; (B) RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR COUNCIL; (C) DIGEST OF CRITICAL MAJOR POLICY ISSUES; AND (D) FUTURE WORK OF COUNCIL. BOERMA COUNSELLED AT OUTSET THAT MEETINGS SHOULD BE KEPT NO LONGER THAN 2 OR 3 DAYS, TO PERMIT ATTENDANCE OF KEY MINISTERS. DATES OF MEETINGS WERE DISCUSSED FURTHER BY WALTON, CHEF-DE-CABINET OF FAO DIRECTOR GENERAL WITH UN SECRETARIAT EARLY IN WEEK OF JANUARY 13. UN FAVORS MAY 26-30, TO PERMIT WORLD FOOD COUNCIL SESSION RESULTS TO BE BROUGHT BEFORE ECOSOC JULY SESSION, WHILE FAO FAVORS JUNE 23-27, TO PERMIT NECESSARY PAPERS TO BE PREPARED AND ENABLE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF RESULTS OF FAO COUNCIL JUNE SESSION. FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WITH GOVERNMENTS ARE TO BE HELD IN NEW YORK BECAUSE SOME OF NEW FAO COUNCIL MEMBER COUNTRIES DO NOT HAVE REPRESENTATION IN ROME.

2. INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. BOERMA SAID THAT WALDHEIM TOOK POSITION THAT VIEWS OF GOVERNMENTS MUST BE EXPLORED FURTHER BEFORE ESTABLISHING THIS NEW FUND SINCE TWO FUNDS ALREADY EXIST--UNDP AND UNEP. WORLD FOOD COUNCIL ACTING SECRETARY GENERAL HANNAH HAS BEEN GIVEN THIS RESPONSIBILITY.

3. CONSULTATIONS ON FOOD INVESTMENT AND PRODUCTION. CONCEPT OF INITIAL ACTIVITY IS OF POLICY-FORMULATION, NOT FUND RAISING. BOERMA NOMINATED HIS AFRICAN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL M.C. MENSAH AS HIS REPRESENTATIVE IN CONSULTATIVE GROUP. BOERMA POINTED OUT MANY QUESTIONS REMAIN TO BE DEALT WITH -- E.G. TERMS OF REFERENCE AND PARTICIPATION (NOT TO BE DUPLICATIVE OF WORLD FOOD COUNCIL AS WHOLE). CONSULTATIONS ON OTHER MATTERS REFERRED TO IN SAME WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE RESOLUTION ARE TO BE DEALT WITH SEPARATELY. FURTHER PRELIMINARY CONSULTATIONS ARE TO BE HELD IN UNITED STATES IN EARLY FEBRUARY.

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4. RELATIONS OF FAO COUNCIL TO WORLD FOOD COUNCIL. IN COMMENT ON BOERMA'S BRIEFING, FAO COUNCIL CHAIRMAN AND SEVERAL LDC REPRESENTATIVES POINTED OUT THAT DESPITE NEED FOR CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TWO COUNCILS, FAO COUNCIL HAS ITS OWN GOVERNMENTAL CREDENTIALS AND IS NOT SUBORDINATED TO WORLD FOOD COUNCIL.

5. CONSULTATIONS IN UNITED STATES, AND WORLD BANK ROLE. INDIAN REP QUESTIONED CONSULTATIONS IN UNITED STATES ON WORLD FOOD COUNCIL

AGENDA AND FOOD INVESTMENTS AND PRODUCTION, ON GROUNDS CONSULTATIONS
SHOULD BE HELD AT SEAT OF HEADQUARTERS. HE ALSO QUESTIONED WORLD
BANK LEADERSHIP ON GROUNDS BANK IS MORE LIMITED IN MEMBERSHIP THAN
FAO -- SPECIFICALLY SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. BOERMA DEFENDED HIMSELF
FOR NOT HAVING MADE ISSUE OF THESE POINTS ON GROUNDS THIS IS
FORMATIVE PERIOD AND CONFERENCE RESOLUTION LISTED BANK FIRST ON FOOD
INVESTMENT AND PRODUCTION QUESTIONS, IMPLYING BANK IS TO PLAY
PRIMARY ROLE. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ROME00784
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750021-0045
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750137/aaaabghf.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 75 ROME 0756, 75 ROME 0411
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <09 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE FOLLOW UP: DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN UNSYG AND FAO DIRECTOR GENERAL ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR
TAGS: AORG, UN, FAO, IBRD, WFC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006